

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of increasing numbers of new brain cells in a patient comprising the steps of:

administering to a patient in need thereof, post neuronal injury, a therapeutic amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of L-arginine, sildenafil, statins, and phosphodiesterase inhibitors increasing numbers of new brain cells; as indicated by labeling the new brain cells with BrdU; and identifying increased numbers of new brain cells by double-labeling detecting-BrdU-labeled brain cells.

2-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the compounds increase levels of cGMP in the patient.

19. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said double-labeling step is further defined as labeling neuronal markers NeuN and MAP2 and astrocytic marker GFAP.